

Feb. 7 set aside to focus on improving literacy skills

Gallaudet faculty, students, and staff who work with students will observe Feb. 7 as Enrichment Day to focus on literacy at Gallaudet and address how students can attain the reading and writing skills needed to ensure their success after graduation.

University classes will be canceled for the day so that faculty and students can attend Enrichment Day, which carries the theme "Literacy: Reading, Writing, and Your Future." Classes will be held at KDES and MSSD.

The day's activities are designed for students and for faculty and staff in the divisions of Academic Affairs and

Academic Support and Student Development. Staff in other divisions are welcome to attend the events to explore ways that they, too, can help improve literacy skills among students.

Literacy was chosen as the focus of Enrichment Day, due in part as a response to the results of the 1993 English Skills Assessment Review Project (ESARP) report, said Terry Cope, coordinator of the English Literacy 2000 Program and co-coordinator of Enrichment Day with Gail Ries, administrative secretary in Assessment and Demographic Studies, and Patricia Kunkle, a student worker in the President's Office. Cope coordinated the

ESARP report, which made recommendations for addressing problems with student literacy at Gallaudet. The recommendations included setting aside a day for the campus community to focus on literacy issues.

Departments will hold program meetings to discuss the reading and writing skills their students will need after they graduate. Notes taken at program meetings and resulting recommendations will be collected and shared with the CUE and various task forces in developing recommendations for general education requirements and designing courses. Other activities will be videotaped and used as resource materials, Cope said.

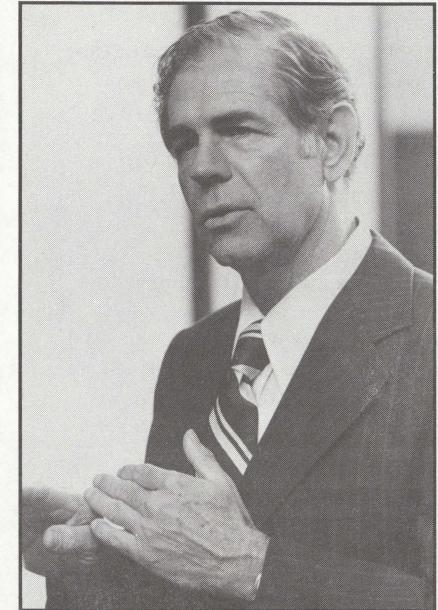
Cope also wants students to benefit directly from the day. "I'd like the day to convey that they're responsible for their own learning," he said.

The Enrichment Day schedule follows:

- 8:45-9:15 a.m.—Welcome by President I. King Jordan, Field House.
- 9:15-9:45 a.m.—Opening address, speaker TBA, Field House.
- 9:45-10:45 a.m.—Panel discussion by Gallaudet alumni, "Reading and Writing After Graduation: The Real Story," Field House.
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.—Department and instructional support unit meetings, "What Literacy Skills Will Our Graduates Need? What Is Our Program's Role in Literacy Development?", various sites.
- Noon-1 p.m.—Student panel discussion, "How Do Students Improve Their Literacy Skills?", Field House.
- 1:15-2:15 p.m.—Concurrent workshops: "Ideas That Work," steps individuals can take to foster literacy improvement; "Setting Real Literacy Standards in the Undergraduate Program"; "Taking Charge of Your Own Progress: Writing a Literacy Self-Development Plan"; "Creative Writing"; "Journalism for Gallaudet Students"; "Writing to Learn: How Faculty in Any Discipline Can Foster Literacy Development"; "Responding to Student Writing: Ideas for a Gallaudet Grammar/Style Handbook," locations TBA.
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.—Concurrent workshops; titles and locations TBA.
- 3:30-4:30 p.m.—"Share Shop," an informal opportunity to compare notes from the day and meet presenters, refreshments served, location TBA.

Meters changed

The University's Parking Committee announces that effective Jan. 30 all parking meters on Kendall Green will permit parking for up to two hours. Each 15-minute increment will cost a quarter.



Dr. Edward C. Merrill

Fourth president Edward C. Merrill Jr. dies on Jan. 26

Dr. Edward Clifton Merrill Jr., who served as Gallaudet's fourth president from 1969 to 1983, died Jan. 26 after a short illness in his hometown of Asheville, N.C. He was 74 years old.

"The entire University community, including our alumni, are saddened by the death of Dr. Merrill," said Gallaudet President I. King Jordan. "He was a man of great vision whose many accomplishments on behalf of disabled people, particularly deaf people, will never be forgotten."

During Merrill's presidency, the University saw many important advances—enrollment nearly doubled, and many new academic and outreach programs were established, including master's degree programs in counseling and school psychology and a doctoral program in special education administration. The College for Continuing Education and the National Center for Law and Deafness began during Merrill's tenure.

Kendall Green was the scene of an ambitious capital improvements plan during the Merrill years. The Model Secondary School for the Deaf, Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, the Field House, and three residence halls were built during this important phase of Gallaudet's history.

In addition, Gallaudet acquired the Marjorie Webster Junior College in Northwest Washington, D.C., as the site of its preparatory program, renaming it the Northwest Campus. He also established extension centers at Johnson County

continued on page 2

Dr. Allen to kick off Black History Month

"Reflections on 1895," the national theme for Black History Month, recognizing African-American "freedom fighters" Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois, and Booker T. Washington for their groundbreaking advances toward gaining equal rights for African Americans, will be noted at the University in February. Gallaudet has expanded on the theme, titling the month "Reflections on the Past 100 Years and Looking to the Future."

Gallaudet's Black History Month Planning Committee has scheduled a number of activities, including lectures, panel discussions, movies, an arts and crafts show, and readings of works by African-American authors, to heighten the University community's awareness of the invaluable contributions that African Americans have made in all aspects of society.

Black History Month at Gallaudet will get underway Feb. 1 with an opening keynote address by Dr. Shirley Allen, a Gallaudet alumnae ('66) who has taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology for the past 22 years. Allen's talk will be in Ely Auditorium from 3 to 5 p.m.

Allen was named Deaf Woman of the Year by Quota Club International in 1993 and has made the 'Who's Who' lists of numerous organizations over the past two decades. She is active in a variety of community service agencies and is highly sought as a speaker and panelist.

Other Black History Month activities at the University are as follows:

- Feb. 1—7 p.m., "Make it Plain," a documentary film about the life of Malcolm X, Ely Auditorium.
- Feb. 3—9 p.m., Black Deaf Student Union party, The Abbey.
- Feb. 4—7 p.m., movie "Malcolm X," Ely Auditorium.
- Feb. 6—11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., panel discussion, "Vision of the Future: The Gallaudet Commitment to African-



Senate discusses interviews with consultants

At a special meeting of the University Faculty Senate Jan. 18, several faculty officers spoke of their interviews with two external consultants hired by Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen and President I. King Jordan, at the senate's request, to review the Vision Implementation Plan (VIP) process.

Faculty Senate Chair Bill Marshall commended Dr. Rosen and Dr. Jordan for selecting two consultants to review the VIP, rather than one as originally planned. Dr. Marshall also praised the reviewers, who had interviewed selected members of the administration and faculty officers on campus Jan. 12-13.

Marshall said that the consultants' reports, which were due to Rosen Jan. 25, will concentrate on three general areas: their general observations of the process and Gallaudet from reading VIP materials and from their campus visit; the recommendations themselves, and future directions.

One theme carried throughout the officers' reports about their contact with the consultants was an emphasis on the need for more communication and dialogue among the faculty, the VIP Steering Committee, and the administration. Both consultants recognized the importance of debate and seemed to feel that there was not sufficient time for debate in the VIP process, according to senate member Dr. Neil Reynolds.

Dr. Rosen, too, said at the senate meeting that she is "very pleased with the consultants" and that the deans also had responded favorably to them. "We do want to be sure that the train keeps moving," she said of the VIP process. "We've done a lot of good things, and we don't want to throw them out, but some topics and principles need further discussion."

Reports on the VIP were presented by the Council on Preparatory Studies (CPS), the Council on Undergraduate Education (CUE), and the Council on Graduate Education (CGE). The councils agreed that they do not want to stop the VIP at this stage, but CPS and CGE did say it should proceed at a slower pace. All three

reports disagreed with some of the final VIP recommendations, but the CPS and CGE chairs highlighted the extensive work of people who served on the task forces, steering committee, councils, and the work of department-level personnel.

Rosen indicated that some of the recommendations of the VIP Steering Committee will go to the board in February, but not all of them. She said that the consultants observed widespread acceptance of the recommendation to close the School of Preparatory Studies.

Another topic of the senate meeting was the new standards for academic achievement passed by CUE, that went into effect last fall. Part B of the standards has caused an unusually high number of students to be subject to academic probation (AP), because it imposes a minimum semester grade point average (GPA). This means that students who have a high cumulative GPA, but who may have failed one course last semester, lowering their semester GPA, might be subject to academic probation. Vice President for Academic Support and Student Development Howard Busby said that all students affected by this new policy will develop contracts with their academic advisors outlining the work they need to do and the support they need to raise their academic achievement.

Dr. Jordan said that after he was informed of the impact of the new standards on students who have been, and still are, students in good academic standing, he decided to suspend Part B of the policy. "First, do no harm." That is the philosophy I believe I undertook in making that decision," he said.

In a memo the following week, Jordan announced that Busby and Rosen will coordinate research on individual and institutional impact of the academic standards. An ad hoc committee also will study the entire issue of academic probation, he said.

Also at the senate meeting, Dr. Ron Nomeland, chair of the Department of Educational Technology, presented several points from his report to the VPAA on the Steering Committee's recommendation to close that department and its master's program.

Marshall sent the council reports to Rosen the next day for her review. Rosen, the deans, and faculty officers also met Jan. 20 to review input from the consultants about the VIP.



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Editor
Todd Byrd

Editorial Staff
Lynne McConnell
Andrea Shettle

Photography Staff
Chun Louie
Joan Schlub

Typesetting
Thomas Corcoran

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KDES Principal Nancy Rarus congratulates Virgil Mason (center), Intermediate Department teacher, for 25 years of service, and Mary King (right), Preschool Department teacher, for five years of service.

Merrill's contributions to Gallaudet recalled

continued from page 1

Community College in Overland Park, Kan., and at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill, Mass. Gallaudet's learning center and library were named in Merrill's honor.

Though not deaf himself, Merrill insisted on eliminating barriers—architectural as well as communication—that impeded deaf students from experiencing the best environment in which to learn and grow. He helped establish Gallaudet as the undisputed national and international leader in the field of education for deaf and hard of hearing people, and he was one of only four individuals worldwide holding honorary membership in the World Federation of the Deaf.

"Dr. Merrill believed that deaf persons should take command of their own environment," said Special Assistant to the President, Advocacy, Jack Gannon. "Merrill succeeded in doing a great service to shake up apathy, lethargy, and paternalistic attitudes among professionals working in the field of deafness. When he retired, Gallaudet had more deaf

administrators than at any time in the history of this University."

Merrill's wife, the former Frances Bonkemeyer, who was the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Gallaudet in 1983, predeceased him in January 1993. Survivors include four children and four grandchildren.

A private burial followed by a memorial service were held Jan. 30 at the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and College Chapel in Asheville. Gallaudet will hold a memorial service for Merrill at a later date.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Edward C. Merrill Jr. Endowment Fund through the Office of Development at Gallaudet. This fund, established in 1983 upon Merrill's retirement, provides financial assistance to advance leadership abilities among deaf people.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. Ads received Jan. 30-Feb. 3 will be printed Feb. 14.

FOR RENT: Master BR and private BA, kitchen privileges, parking, Lanham, Md., \$350/mo. plus 1/3 util. Also need babysitter for low fee. Call x5754 or (301) 552-2132 (V/TTY).

FOR RENT: 1-BR apt. on Montello Ave. NE, walk to Gallaudet, avail. now, \$400/mo. plus util. Call (301) 499-7219 (V).

FOR RENT: Nonsmoker wanted to share 3-BR, 2 1/2 BA townhouse in Springfield, Va. near Springfield Mall. Own BR, \$283/mo. plus 1/3 util. Avail. now. Call John or Rich, (703) 971-3359 (TTY).

FOR SALE: Ladies 10-speed bike, \$150/BO; 25-in. 1993 TV, \$275; decoder, \$50; microwave w/rotator, \$100; 2 outdoor chairs w/table, \$40; Lifecycle, \$75; lamps, \$10 each; more. Call (301) 890-2435 (TTY) eves.

FOR SALE: Studio condo in Cleveland Park, D.C., well-lit top floor unit, near Metro, \$56,000. Call (202) 363-0147 (V).

FOR SALE: New dark wood Jenny Lind crib, never used, mattress not incl., \$130/BO; extra long twin electric bed, rarely used, \$400/BO. Call Mary, x5257, or E-mail MMPOWELL.

FOR RENT: 1 BR in Laurel, Md., home, phone, cable, own trans., no pets, and no children, \$225/mo. plus 1/4 util. Call Bonnie, x5226 or (301) 725-2271 or E-mail BGSANDERLIN.

FOR RENT: House in Bowie, Md., 4-BR, 2-BA, family room, rec. room, avail. now, \$900/mo. Call (301) 948-5175 (TTY) eves. and weekends, or (703) 695-1378 (TTY) days.



Dr. Ann Davidson, dean of the School of Preparatory Studies, recognizes Dr. Kenneth Epstein, assistant dean of SPS, for 15 years of service to the University.